

EXHIBIT A



OCTOBER 2003

PROPOSAL FOR PLANNING GRANT
GREEN VISIONS PLAN FOR 21ST CENTURY SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
A Guide for Habitat, Watershed Management, and Recreational Open Space
Introduction

The Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce released the Olmsted Bartholomew Plan for Parks, Playgrounds and Beaches for the Los Angeles Region in 1930. A visionary plan that integrated habitat conservation, watershed management, and recreation, the document has been heralded as an outstanding example of regional planning, and its recommendations still resonate today. Nonetheless, the Plan was pronounced dead on arrival by the Chamber of Commerce itself, largely due to its price tag, and literally vanished into the archives for decades. No plan of similar scope was ever drafted thereafter.

The continued rapid growth of population and outward march of urbanization in southern California makes the development of a new integrated strategic master plan for the region more critical than ever before. Moreover, the allocation of significant new bond and other funding for habitat conservation, watershed management, and recreation requires a consistent framework to support decision-making in a complex, politically fragmented urban region. State-created conservancies established for southern California have already begun important planning efforts for their specific territories. But at a time when public interest in urban open space, river parkways, and recreational needs is at an all-time high, the region as a whole still lacks an overall blueprint and planning tools required to guide integrated investments in land acquisition, habitat restoration, park facilities, and watershed infrastructure. This lack of planning, in turn, hinders efforts to realize projects ranging in scale from butterfly gardens for dense urban neighborhoods, to urban trail systems linking schools, libraries and parks, to the restoration of riverways where freeways now command the landscape.

In partnership with the Center for Sustainable Cities at the University of Southern California, the RMC proposes to launch a planning process that will result in an ambitious new multifaceted plan – *Green Visions Plan for 21st Century Southern California*. This effort, involving academic experts, political leadership, and stakeholders from business, government, nonprofit, and community sectors, will provide a set of values and principles as well as technical planning tools, capable of guiding the development of a living green matrix for southern California.

The Plan's area will initially include the RMC territory. Given initial expressions of strong interest and willingness to provide financial support among other conservancies and state agencies, however, we expect that the Plan area will ultimately be extended to other major rivers and their watersheds in southern California. Therefore, our pre-planning efforts will include these additional watersheds.

Creating the *Green Visions Plan for 21st Century Southern California* is a major multi-year research and planning task. The undertaking is predicated on a series of critical decisions concerning plan parameters, and on the availability of data from an enormous number of sources. For example:

- At what geographic scale or granularity should the Plan be developed? Should this scale vary over the Plan's territory?
- Should habitat elements of the plan focus on protection of individual species or communities of plants and animals?
- Should the Plan include model municipal ordinances (pertaining to landscaping, dark sky lighting, or permeability) to increase the Plan's effectiveness, despite a lack of formal jurisdiction to implement such ordinances?
- Should certain subareas of the Plan territory be prioritized for more detailed analysis and planning?
- Which data are available for the entire Plan area, and which would need to be created through primary fieldwork?
- What would a map of proposals from past plans look like, and could it guide immediate high-priority investments?

In order to address these questions, we propose a 6-month pre-planning effort that would lead directly and logically to the *Green Visions Plan* itself. In addition, given the significant amount of planning that has already occurred in parts of the Plan territory, and the fact that the *Green Visions Plan* will necessarily be a multi-year effort, this pre-planning phase will also make a limited number of recommendations regarding immediate priorities for land acquisition and project development.

In what follows, the participants, major tasks, deliverables and budget of this pre-planning effort are outlined.

Plan Team and Advisory Groups

The Plan's research and planning team will be responsible for the pre-planning phase of the project. The team involves four senior academic scientists with expertise in urban park/open space planning (Jennifer Wolch, Geography & Urban Planning), urban habitat planning (Travis Longcore, Biogeography), water resources and engineering (Joseph Devanny, Environmental Engineering), and Geographic Information Science or GIS (John Wilson, Geography). The pre-planning team will also involve selected consultants, and a doctoral research assistant. Eventually, a number of post-doctoral associates and doctoral research assistants will support the senior scientific team. In addition, the full Plan team will include a senior project manager with expertise in urban environmental issues, a communications/public education staff member with background in public participation, environmental justice, and parks/open space, and an administrative officer.

Major Pre-Planning Tasks

The Pre-planning phase of the *Green Visions Plan* will involve four major tasks:

1. *Inventory of Past Plans.* A great deal of past planning work and data collection around recreation, habitat conservation, and watershed management has been

accomplished for various subareas of the Plan territory. These efforts vary widely in terms of source (agency, university, advocacy group), geographic scale, level of detail, and integration of multiple objectives. The Plan will inventory and review past planning projects, highlighting alternatives offered in major planning documents, and mapping alternatives that enjoy broad consensus across planning domains.

⇒ Deliverable: Web site with GIS map of RMC area, allowing users to pull up proposals and related documents, including a layer of 'priority recommendations' for land acquisition and projects that should be immediately funded.

2. *Data Scan and Assessment.* A wealth of GIS-ready data is already available for the Plan territory but is widely scattered and the extent of compatibility is not fully known. This task focuses on the assembly and rapid assessment of data sources available at various scale(s) of interest, to guide decisions about what field data collection/verification is necessary will be made.

⇒ Deliverable: Inventory of data and associated meta-data, and document identifying data gaps.

3. *Pre-Plan Workshop:* The Center for Sustainable Cities scientific team, along with RMC staff, directors of other regional conservancies and state agencies who have agreed to participate in the *Green Visions Plan* effort, and key consultants, will hold a 2-day workshop. The purpose of the workshop will be to review past plans and our assessment of data issues, and make structural decisions about the scale(s) of the plan, subarea priorities, data collection and integration needs, habitat conservation principles that will guide the Plan, and the nature of deliverables. Part of the workshop will also be devoted to a detailed costing of the larger Plan effort.

⇒ Deliverable: Transcripts of the workshop, and a summary document that lays out basic parameters of the *Green Visions Plan*.

4. *Formation of Visioning and Technical Committees.* Two advisory groups will be convened to launch and advise the Plan. One (Visioning) will be tasked with developing a coherent vision, a set of plan values, and operating principles needed to guide the plan-making process and outcomes. This group of about 12 persons will include senior political figures, public officials, nonprofit and business leaders, and academics. The second group will be a body of technical and policy experts (Technical/Policy) charged with providing advice/review of Plan-related products. This group will include members of RMC's existing Habitat Advisory Panel, and experts in urban water resources and recreation/open space planning. During the pre-planning phase of the project, both of these advisory groups will meet for an introduction to the overall *Green Visions Plan* effort, and to review the decisions and directions set by our pre-planning activities.

⇒ Deliverable: Meeting minutes and committee mission statements.

EXHIBIT B**Budget**

Contract Period January 1, 2004 – June 30, 2004

PERSONNEL**Senior Scientists**

Jennifer Wolch	\$10,000
John Wilson	\$10,000
Travis Longcore	\$10,000
Joseph Devinny	\$5,000
Subtotal	\$35,000

Consultants (CBI, Shaw, Fulton)	\$15,000
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Staff Scientists & Technicians

4 Doctoral Research Assistants 1 semester	\$32,000
Subtotal	\$32,000

Project Management

Administrator @ 40% FTE 6 mo.	\$8,400
Subtotal	\$8,400
Fringe Benefits @ 33.75%	\$25,448

MATERIAL & SUPPLIES

Workshop	\$10,000
GIS Lab Technical Support & Supplies	\$9,600
Technical Support	\$13,745
Office Supplies & Minor Equipment	\$1,000
Report Publications	\$500
Subtotal	\$34,845

TRAVEL	\$500
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TOTAL DIRECT	\$151,193
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INDIRECTS

Overhead @10%	\$15,119
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TOTAL	\$166,312
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